

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION (RCA)**

DEPARTMENT: Financial and Administrative Services
AGENDA DATE: May 11, 2010
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Carmen Arrieta-Candelaria, Chief Financial Officer, 541-4293
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

Formal report of the Fiscal Affairs and Management Support/Internal Audit Legislative Review Committee meeting held on April 8, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The report is being submitted by LRC Chair, Representative Rachel Quintana.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The following items were on the agenda:

1. Discussion and action on the approval of the Minutes for the Fiscal Affairs & Management Support/Internal Audit LRC meetings of December 10, 2009.
2. Discussion and action concerning clarification of the City's Apprenticeship Program as it relates to horizontal construction.
3. Discussion and action concerning making Apprenticeship Program Compliance more transparent for the purpose of third party monitoring.
4. Discussion and action on whether the City should continue to investigate and design a special energy finance area as described in Chapter 376 of the Local Government Code.

Attached is the formal report of the discussion and action, if applicable, on each of the items on the agenda.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A


BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) _____ **FINANCE:** (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD:


(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager



**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Action Report**

Committee: FISCAL AFFAIRS and MANAGEMENT SUPPORT/INTERNAL
AUDIT LRC

Members: Representative Rachel Quintana (Chair)
Representative Carl Robinson
Representative Steve Ortega

Staff Assignee: Carmen Arrieta-Candelaria, CFO-Financial Services Department

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, April 8, 2010 – 1:00 P.M.

1. Discussion and action on the approval of the Minutes for the Fiscal Affairs & Management Support/Internal Audit LRC meetings of December 10, 2009.

Summary: Minutes were presented by the Chair to the Committee. Representative Quintana requested to amend the minutes for December 10, 2009 to state Representative Carl Robinson instead of Representative Eddie Holguin as present.

Action Taken:

Representative Ortega motioned to approve the Minutes with amendment. Motion seconded by Representative Robinson. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Discussion and action concerning clarification of the City's Apprenticeship Program as it relates to horizontal construction.**
- 3. Discussion and action concerning making Apprenticeship Program Compliance more transparent for the purpose of third party monitoring.**

Agenda items 3 and 4 were discussed at the same time.

Summary:

Mr. Alan Shubert, Engineering Director, introduced and explained the City of El Paso "COEP" Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Shubert stated that a resolution adopting an Apprenticeship Program was signed on November 9, 1999. Mr. Shubert explained the program overview and the 14 apprenticeable occupations that are utilized.

A subsequent discussion followed concerning the various aspects of the City's apprenticeship program, including the value of what the program brings to the City of El Paso. Public comment was given by various members of the audience.

Action Taken:

Representative Ortega made a motion that staff come up with a dollar amount for the Apprenticeship Program that would apply to apprenticeable trades regardless whether or not the project is vertical or horizontal and come up with enhanced enforcement. The motion was seconded by Representative Robinson and passed unanimously.

Representative Ortega asked Mr. Shubert when this could be done. Mr. Shubert answered he did not know as he had to consult with legal and see if this would present any challenges. Representative moved to give Mr. Shubert 60 days to bring to Council. If it cannot be done in 60 days, Representative Ortega asked that Mr. Shubert let Council know why it cannot be done.

4. Discussion and action on whether the City should continue to investigate and design a special energy finance area as described in Chapter 376, of the Local Government Code.

Summary:

Mr. Martin Howell, Sustainability Program Manager introduced and explained the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. Mr. Howell stated this program is a voluntary program for those property owners that wanted to make energy improvements to their property and did not have the money to pay for these improvements all at one time. The money would be paid back by increasing their property taxes but their utility bills would decrease. It is a voluntary program. Mr. Howell further explained the explained the benefits and perils of this program. Three parties would be involved - the City, the property owner and the third party who would actually lend the property owner the money.

A subsequent discussion followed regarding the various aspects of the PACE program. Mr. Howell asked that the LRC and Council approve the concept. Mr. Howell stated that he would like to go out for an RFP to hire a third party for design, administration and finance.

Ms. Marie Taylor, Assistant City Attorney, informed the LRC Committee regarding policy procedures when this goes to City Council. Ms. Pat Adauro, Deputy City Manager, clarified the procedures regarding outreach to the stakeholders. Ms. Adauro suggested the action be to bring a more formal program to City Council. Representative Quintana asked if the action could include that the stakeholders are aware that the PACE program will be placed on City Council Agenda. Representative Quintana asked Representative Ortega to exclude the outreach to stakeholders in the resolution.


Action Taken:

Representative Ortega motioned to present this program to City Council with more outreach to stakeholders and tying this into manufacturing in the local region and explore incentives through the Economic Development Office for participation. After the discussion, Representative Quintana requested the outreach to stakeholders be excluded. Motion seconded by Representative Robinson. Motion passed unanimously.

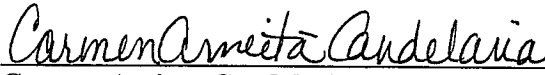
5. Adjournment

Representative Quintana adjourned the LRC meeting at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by:



City Representative Rachel Quintana, District 5
Chair, Fiscal Affairs and Management
Support/Internal Audit



Carmen Arrieta-Candelaria, CFO
Financial Services Department